B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 –27 have been cancelled without prejudice.

28. (Previously presented) A method of regenerating meniscal tissue in a joint of an animal, comprising:

injecting into said joint a liquid suspension consisting essentially of mesenchymal stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue, and wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are injected in an amount effective to regenerate meniscal tissue in a joint of an animal.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.

30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 29 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium ~~hyaluronate~~. hyaluronan.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints, and the temporal mandibular joint.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.

35. (Previously presented) A method of repairing meniscal damage in a joint, comprising:

injecting into said joint a liquid suspension consisting essentially of mesenchymal stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue, said mesenchymal stem cells being injected in an amount effective to repair said meniscal damage in said joint.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.

37. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 36 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium ~~hyaluronate~~. hyaluronan.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.

39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints, and the temporal mandibular joint.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.

41. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.

42. (Previously presented) A method of preventing or reducing subchondral bone sclerosis in a joint, comprising:

injecting into said joint a liquid suspension consisting essentially of mesenchymal stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue and, wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are injected in an amount effective to prevent or reduce subchondral bone sclerosis in a joint.

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.

44. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 43 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium ~~hyaluronate~~. hyaluronan.

45. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.

46. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints, and the temporal mandibular joint.

47. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.

48. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.

49. (Previously presented) A method of preventing or reducing the formation of osteophytes in a joint, comprising:

injecting into said joint a liquid suspension consisting essentially of mesenchymal stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue, and wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are injected in an amount effective to prevent or reduce the formation of osteophytes in a joint.

50. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.

51. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 50 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium ~~hyaluronate~~. hyaluronan.

52. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.

53. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints, and the temporal mandibular joint.

54. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.

55. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.

56. (Previously presented) A method of protecting cartilage in a joint of an animal, comprising:

injecting into said joint a liquid suspension consisting essentially of mesenchymal stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue adjacent said cartilage, and wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are injected in an amount effective to protect cartilage in a joint of an animal.

57. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.

58. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 57 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium ~~hyaluronate~~. hyaluronan.

59. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.

60 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints and the temporal mandibular joint.

61. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.

62. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.

63. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 $x10^4$ cells to about 1.5 x 10^8 cells.

64. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 63 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^5 cells to about 1 x 10^8 cells.

65. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 64 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^6 cells to about 1 x 10^7 cells.

66. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^4 cells to about 1.5 x 10^8 cells.

67. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 66 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^5 cells to about 1 x 10^8 cells.

68. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 67 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from 1 x 10^6 cells to about 1 x 10^7 cells.

69. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^4 cells to about 1.5 x 10^8 cells.

70. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 69 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^5 cells to about 1 x 10^8 cells.

71. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^6 cells to about 1 x 10^7 cells.

72. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^4 cells to about 1.5 x 10^8 cells.

73. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 72 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^5 cells to about 1 x 10^8 cells.

74. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 73 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^6 cells to about 1 x 10^7 cells.

75. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^4 cells to about 1.5 x 10^8 cells.

76. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 75 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^5 cells to about 1 x 10^8 cells.

77. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 76 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1 x 10^6 cells to about 1 x 10^7 cells.